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BODY AND GENDER STUDIES: OBJECTIFICATION AND THE VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN

SYNOPSIS SUBMITTED

By

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the synopsis entitled "**Body and Gender Studies: Objectification and the Vulnerability of Women**" is my own original work and it has not formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, associateship, or fellowship of similar other titles.

Signature of Supervisor
Details of Supervisor:

Research Scholar

Signature of Co Supervisor
Details of Co Supervisor:

Research Proposal

Introduction

The topic of my research is **"Body and Gender Studies: Objectification and the Vulnerability of Women"**

Introducing you to the idea and the notions related to body cultural studies specially in context to women. As body culture studies analyze culture and society in terms of human bodily practices, they are sometimes viewed as a form of materialist phenomenology.

The field of body culture studies is floating towards studies of medical cultures, of gender and sexual cultures, of fashion and body decoration, and more generally towards popular culture studies. Therefore, I shall lay focus on the very core aspects of the above said topic as per my knowledge and understanding.

Study different era on the norms of beauty, treatment of women and their status in the society. I would like to quote a line from Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir "Are there women, really?" Isn't Beauvoir question so applicable and significant in a world where we all are trying to prove our existence. In the same world, women strive harder to establish a substantial existence for themselves. Women have always been treated like a commodity and have been tagged as second sex. Moreover, they have always been suppressed and subjugated to a heart-breaking plight. One can say that women empowerment came with the waves of feminism and also changed the way situation were perceived, these waves of feminism focused on achieving certain goals (women's suffrage, property rights, combatting sexual harassment and misogyny). One needs to be clear about certain notions like feminism nowhere promotes misandry but there are several people and situations that promote

misogyny. The laws and acts that are laid down for the safety of women are nowhere misandry in nature, they are only for the safety of women.

I would like to quote a line from Gender Trouble by Judith Butler "And she continues in this vein; 'the masculine' and 'the feminine' are not biologically fixed but culturally presupposed." The quote hence proves that these boundaries around us are all man made and it is we who are promoting male hegemony and killing our happiness and freedom because of which men of the country will continue to show their dominance over women. It is the female sex that has to step forth, transcend the barrier of the veil and speak up for her own well-being because our customs, traditions, culture and religions, all reek of patriarchy so we need to learn to stand for ourselves.

Objective

The primary objective of this research is to bring forth the attention towards the less talked about issues which play a vital role in the overall development of a society and its formation as a framework. Talking about body cultural studies in context to women and their suffering regarding the same. How even today, a Women is looked down, simply as a object for some and a mean of exercising their power/domination, considering her to be a weak gender.

Presently, two clear divisions can be seen patriarchy and matriarchy, both aim at establishing themselves higher than the other because it's about developing a status in the society and empowering self via this establishment which creates a world of their own. The objective of this study is to bring forth the change that can be visibly seen in different era through the work of Naomi Wolf's 'The Beauty Myth' and Simone de Beauvoir's "The Second Sex". A change in the status of women, a change in the treatment of women and a change in the norms of beauty.

Proposed Tentative Chapter

Chapter: 1 Introduction

Chapter: 2 Body and Gender Studies: A Overview

Chapter: 3 Feminism: Ambiguity and Clarity

Chapter: 4 Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*: Objectification of Women's Body

- Why are women the primary target when it comes to objectification?
- According to me and my research women are more vulnerable and easy to be misguided/ brainwash, so they fall a prey of this objectification.
- Why do brands usually have female lead models and not men?
- That is because women can be decorated well and bring a factor to the brand which makes it easier for them to catch the attention of public.
- Why is that literature has always has always talked about kings and their powers and not the queens?

Chapter: 5 Imtiaz Dharker's *Purdah I* and Mahasweta Devi's *Draupdi and Breast Stories*: Victimization of Victims

- Vulnerability as a central framework through which to analyze alternative modes of articulating the harms of rape.
- When institutions or criminal justice system personnel fail to support the victimized individual, victims are vulnerable to secondary victimization.
- Those exposed to traumatic victimization are vulnerable to experiencing secondary victimization. If social needs such as empathy, support, and understanding are not met, individuals are prone to this phenomenon.

- While anybody who has experienced victimization is susceptible to secondary victimization, prevalence rates are significantly elevated for some populations. This includes females, children, racial and sexual minorities, and those sexually assaulted by an acquaintance or stranger.

Chapter: 6 Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth*: Body Shamming

- How a body is shammed because of its type?
- Differences between the types of body and reason for the differences.
- How each body is beautiful and holds its own uniqueness?
- Why neglect any body type?

Chapter: 7 Findings and Recommendations: A Summary

- Body culture can also be considered political such as the body shape and appearance.
- We need to change the notion of objectifying women or any other body for that matter.
- Body culture being a popular culture should aim at removing the differences between types of bodies, color of bodies and many such relatable notion.
- Every body is beautiful the way it is, God created each body differently for a reason.
- Let's just understand each body the way it is, without any manipulation.
- Each individual has certain rights, lets respect them and end the discrimination by objectifying any individual.

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Chapterization

1) Introduction
2) Body and Gender Studies: An Overview
3) Feminism: Ambiguity and Clarity
4) Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble* and Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex:* Objectification of Women's Body
5) Imtiaz Dharker's *Purdah I* and Mahasweta Devi's *Draupdi* and *Breast Stories*: Victimization of Victims
6) Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth*: Body Shamming
7) Findings and Recommendations: A Summary

Bibliography